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REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action of October 4, 2007. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-18 are requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 12, 14, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Young (US 4,545,738).

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Young in view of Claudet (US 4,840,032).

Claims 8, 9, 13, and 16-18 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

The Claims Distinguish Patentably Over the References of Record

Support for the amended subject matter in claim 1 is found in the embodiment of Figures 5 and 6 and is disclosed at page 4, third paragraph and page 11, third paragraph to page 12, first paragraph and claim 12 of the present application.

Arranging one or more of the gas nozzles in the cylinder housing rather than in the piston offers advantages. One advantage is that the compressed-gas supply can be arranged in a stationary cylinder housing rather than in a moving piston. Such an arrangement of gas bearing nozzles in the cylinder housing is easier to implement and less costly than an arrangement in which the gas bearing nozzles are in the piston.

The combination of an inlet valve controlled by piston movement and the gas bearing nozzles in the cylinder housing is a very simple and reliable gas bearing construction.

Young does not disclose providing gas bearing nozzles in the cylinder housing and fails to achieve the above discussed advantages. Rather, Young only discloses gas bearing nozzles in the piston. Young teaches that the gas bearing nozzles should be arranged in the piston when a piston-controlled inlet valve is defined by a cylinder wall opening and a piston wall opening.

Because claim 1 sets forth a different structure than that disclosed in Young, which different structure achieves significant advantages relative to Young, it is submitted that claim 1 and claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9-10, 14, and 15 dependent therefrom

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distinguish, are not anticipated by and distinguish patentably over Young and the other references of record.

Claims 8, 9, 13, and 16 which were indicated as containing allowable subject matter, have been placed in independent form. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 8, 9, 13, and 16 along with claims 5, 12, 17, and 18 dependent therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

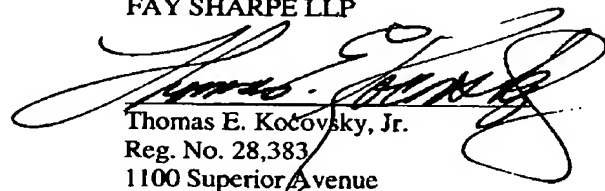
CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that claims 1-18 are not anticipated by and distinguish patentably over the references of record. An early allowance of all claims is requested.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case(s), he is requested to telephone Thomas E. Kocovsky, Jr. at (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

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